



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Alabama

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FOURTEEN MORE ARRESTED FOR HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD IN THE MONTGOMERY AREA

*Many Have Already Pleaded Guilty and Await Sentencing
Total Number Arrested In Excess of 50*

Montgomery, Ala.—Fourteen additional Katrina and Rita fraud defendants have been arrested recently in the Middle District of Alabama, U.S. Attorney Leura Canary announced today. These individuals were arrested in connection with charges of fraud and theft arising from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Several have been detained while awaiting trial or sentencing. Many have already pleaded guilty to the charges.

“Each of these fourteen defendants are charged with consciously setting out to steal money intended for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many of them compounded the offense by stealing others’ identities to commit the crime. In total, our office has charged 51 defendants based upon Katrina and Rita fraud. We are committed to bringing these offenders to justice,” U.S. Attorney Canary stated.

The cases were investigated as part of U.S. Attorney Canary’s Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force. The members of this task force consist of agents with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Office of the Inspector General; the United States Postal Inspectors; the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General; and the United States Secret Service.

The collaborative effort of these agencies on the Task Force resulted in indictments filed against the following individuals:

- **Julie Noelle Hines**, age 39, of Auburn, Alabama, who has been charged with theft of government property related to an alleged false claim for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance. The indictment alleges that Hines filed an application that falsely represented that she had suffered losses to property she rented as her primary residence in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. As a result, Hines received and cashed \$2,358 in FEMA funds based on fraudulent information she provided.

An indictment is merely an accusation and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty at trial beyond a reasonable doubt.

Hines has also been charged with a non-Katrina-related count of theft of mail and credit card fraud. She was arrested on Monday and released on bond. Her trial is set for August 18, 2008, before U.S. District Court Judge W. Keith Watkins.

- **Terrance Harris**, 21, of Montgomery, Alabama, who has been charged with stealing over \$13,000 in federal FEMA funds intended for Katrina victims. The indictment alleges that Harris, who lived in Montgomery, Alabama, during the time of the hurricane, received at least 6 checks and cashed them, knowing that he was not entitled to the funds. Harris was arrested on April 19, 2008, in Decatur, Alabama, after police responded to a domestic violence call. Harris appeared before a Magistrate Judge in Huntsville, Alabama, on April 21, 2008, and was transported by U.S. Marshals for a detention hearing in Montgomery. On May 1, 2008, Magistrate Judge Wallace Capel, Jr., found that Harris was a flight risk and ordered that he remain in jail pending his trial, which is scheduled for June 23, 2008, before U.S. District Court Judge Myron H. Thompson.
- **Andrew D'Angelo Garrett**, 23, of Montgomery, Alabama, who has been charged with eight counts of theft of Hurricane Katrina funds. It is alleged that Garrett and others filed four FEMA claims, representing that Garrett had suffered damages to various residences in Harvey and New Orleans, Louisiana, when in fact he lived in Montgomery, Alabama. As a result, the indictment alleges that Garrett and others received over \$23,400 intended for Katrina victims. Garrett has been released on bond; his trial is set for June 23, 2008, before Judge Thompson.
- **Adle Jackson**, 44, currently of Lakeside, Montana, and **Stanley Sargent**, 60, of Montgomery, Alabama, who have been jointly charged with stealing \$2,000 in FEMA funds in connection with a Katrina application filed in Ms. Jackson's name, but deposited into the couple's joint checking account. According to the indictment, the application claimed Jackson lived in New Orleans, but in reality both Jackson and Sargent lived in Montgomery, Alabama, at the time of Katrina. Sargent was also charged separately in a non-FEMA-related count of bank fraud. Sargent was arrested and had his initial appearance and arraignment in Montgomery. Jackson was arrested and had her initial appearance in Missoula, Montana. Her arraignment has been set for May 21, 2008, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Terry F. Moorer in Montgomery. Trial is set for August 18, 2008, before Judge Watkins.
- **Tammy Holloway**, 39, of Montgomery, Alabama, who is charged with filing two claims for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance. According to the indictment, in each claim Holloway used false identities and false social security numbers. The indictment charges that, based upon the fraudulent applications, Holloway

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received and cashed \$4,000 in U.S. Treasury checks. Holloway has been charged with two counts of theft of government property or money and one count of aggravated identity theft. Her trial is set for August 18, 2008, before Judge Watkins.

- **Rosetta Lola Canidate Dejarnette**, 51, who has been charged in an eleven count indictment. Count One charges her and others with conspiring to file false claims with FEMA in order to receive over \$10,000 in disaster assistance in relation to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Dejarnette has also been charged in Counts Two through Six with theft of government property. Counts Seven through Eleven charge her with aggravated identity theft for using others' social security numbers to file claims. Dejarnette's trial is set for July 28, 2008, before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Mark E. Fuller.
- **Thelma Elaine Foster**, 42, and **Isaphene Foster Riley**, 57, both of Montgomery, Alabama, who have been charged with theft of government property or money and aggravated identity theft. The Fosters filed an application in the name of Isaphene Foster with FEMA for Katrina disaster benefit using a false social security number. The application falsely represented that Isaphene Foster had suffered losses to property she rented as her primary residence in New Orleans, Louisiana. In fact, the Fosters did not live in New Orleans or suffer the losses claimed. The Fosters received a check in the amount of \$2,000, which they cashed, knowing they were not entitled to the funds. Their trial is set for August 18, 2008, before Judge Watkins.
- **Paul Graham**, 27, of Montgomery, Alabama, who pleaded guilty on May 1, 2008, to a four count Information, in which he admitted to improperly receiving and cashing checks in excess of \$8,000 in FEMA funds intended for Katrina victims. Graham admitted that he allowed others to file three fraudulent claims on his behalf in his name, and that he then cashed four disaster assistance checks resulting from these fraudulent claims. Graham also pleaded guilty to non-FEMA-related narcotics and drug charges. Graham remains in federal custody pending sentencing, which will occur on July 22, 2008, before Judge Watkins. Graham faces as much as 40 years imprisonment on the FEMA charges alone.
- **Michael Hood**, age 23, of Montgomery, Alabama, who pleaded guilty on April 28, 2008, to one count of theft of government property or money. During the plea hearing, Hood admitted that he received and cashed a \$2,000 check intended for Katrina victims, knowing that he was not entitled to the money. Hood faces up to 10 years imprisonment for this charge. His sentencing is scheduled for August 7, 2008, before Judge Watkins.

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- **Dan Lee Johnson**, 61, **Della May Jones**, 36, and **Mack Murrell**, 67, all from Montgomery, Alabama, who have pleaded guilty to one count of theft of government property. Each admitted in a plea hearing before Magistrate Judge Moorer that they received and cashed a \$2,000 Katrina disaster relief check, knowing they were not entitled to the money. Each faces up to 10 years imprisonment. Their sentencings before Chief Judge Fuller, are currently scheduled on May 16, 2008, for Jones and Murrell and July 11, 2008, for Johnson.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama is a member of the Department of Justice's Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force (HKTF), created by the Department of Justice in September 2005 to deter, detect, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes. The Task Force is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, and United States Attorneys' Offices from the Gulf Coast region and nationwide.

According to statistics kept by the HKTF, headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, thus far the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama has charged the highest number of defendants in the State of Alabama, ranking seventh nationwide in the number of total indictments. To date, the Middle District has obtained the longest sentence (516 months) for Hurricane Katrina or Rita fraud.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher A. Snyder is prosecuting the above-mentioned cases on behalf of the U.S. Government, with the exception of Graham's case, which Assistant U.S. Attorneys Snyder and Nathan D. Stump are jointly prosecuting.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the Department of Homeland Security Office or the Inspector General Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721.

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